

Wildcare Friends of Deal Island Working Bee 12-23 March 2024 (exact dates tbc) Information sheet

We are excited to announce the details of our March 2024 working bee. A Wildcare grant will provide the funds to transport to Deal island from Flinders and contribute towards airfares for a group of 6 volunteers. Dates will be confirmed closer to the time as we are always dependent upon the weather but are likely to be roughly 12-23 March for approximately 10 -12 days.

There will be a strong focus on weed management as part of our War on Weeds program concentrating on Ragwort, Sea spurge, Arum lilies and Horehound. There may also be some maintenance works.

Travel arrangements:

We will fly from Barnbougle (near Bridport) to Flinders Island in a single engine charter plane. We fly in two trips from Flinders to Deal in the same aircraft. You will need to make your own way to Bridport. Weight restrictions will apply and backloading with some supplies and luggage may be required prior to the departure date.

Accommodation

We stay in a 4 bedroom 1930's light keepers' quarters known as the Visitor's house. The bunks are very comfortable with quality mattresses. Allocation of rooms will be sorted on arrival. There is a hot shower (gas), gas stove, electric fridge and freezer, and 24 hour 240 volt power via solar panels. Clothes washing is done by hand or in the twin tub washer. Crockery, cutlery, pots, pans, implements etc are all there.

Things to bring:

1. Bedding. Sleeping bag, sheet to cover mattress , pillow slip (pillows available)
2. Work clothing, wet-weather gear, warm hat and sun hat, warm jacket (thermals?) good boots. Gators or wet weather pants are good for protecting against stinging nettle.
3. Sun screen etc, toiletries & towel, personal medication, reading material, torch, kneeling pads(if you wish) Sunglasses, camera
4. Bathers, snorkelling gear
5. Lunch box, drink bottle, thermos;
6. Plenty of patience and good humour!

Catering

At this stage:All the food will be pre - ordered for the group with shared catering.

Breakfasts: You will be asked to advise your preferred cereal, and spreads, beverages etc.

Lunch: Most days you'll be away from the settlement so cut lunches and thermos are often the go.

Evening meals: Everyone takes a turn at the cooking. You may be asked to choose a recipe (a favourite or two..) which you would use for your turn at cooking. Simple one pot meals are quickest and easiest.

Everyone needs to be prepared to help in preparing the other outstanding meals – in fact, everyone usually helps with a whole range of tasks.

Costs:

The cost of communal food will be shared between us and will be approx. \$165-200 per person. We ask for a contribution of \$100pp towards that airfare cost to Flinders please contact us to discuss if this creates a problem.

For the working bee, the approximate costs to individuals are:

Airfare contribution	\$100
Meals on Deal	\$165-200 approx.
Drinks, extras etc	\$up to the individual

Communications on Deal:

Patchy mobile reception, sometimes you have reception at the house otherwise its a few mins walk and in the field will depend on location.

Safety:

As well as communications via mobile phones, there is a landline phone in the caretakers' house so that emergency services can be contacted in the unlikely event of any incident.

There is a comprehensive first aid kit on the island. One will be carried by the work team. Qualified first aid officer will be the team. A small personal first aid kit useful to carry in the field.

Job Risk Analyses (JRA's) will be provided for each of the tasks undertaken and these will be covered by the group leader. You will also be advised of safe work practices. You must follow the safe working guidelines; use the provided safety equipment at all times, and also look out for the safety of other members of the team. Safety briefings will be held on arrival, and each morning about the day's activities.

Some potential hazards:

Bass Strait islands are notorious for being inhabited by large and venomous snakes, but **not on Deal Island**, where there are only white lipped whip snakes who prefer skinks.

The most common injuries incurred by weeders are scratches or punctures brushing against sticks, and more commonly, the sharp tips of blades of grasses such as Poa tussock grass.

Another plant to be wary of is the **native stinging nettle**. These are generally found in grasslands, often in areas which have been disturbed. Their sting is painful, and the injured part can be affected for days. Some people, who are more sensitive to its effects than others, may need to be treated with an antihistamine.

Insurance

All participants will be provided with insurance by PWS and/or Wildcare to cover:

- Public Liability (covering the volunteer against damage claims resulting from their actions), and
- Personal Accident (including cover for loss of income and non-Medicare medical expenses)

Expression of interest process

Expressions of interest are invited, to be submitted online closing 2 February 2024.

We are limited to 6 places due to capacity on the plane and COVID restrictions in the residence so it may not be possible to take everyone who is interested.

Successful working bees require a good deal of work with preplanning and a close working relationship on island so please if you are completing an expression of interest consider both your suitability for the tasks at hand, willingness to work well as part of a small team and that you are prepared to assist with preparations.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

Jo Widdowson
President
Wildcare Friends of Deal Island
jo@humanshelters.net
Mb: 040830848